WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

Sub Al> 1.   A method of selectively logging query implementation information of a query in a database management system, the method comprising:

receiving a query;

determining an execution plan for the query;

determining whether query implementation information should be logged for the query; and

executing the query.

2.   The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether query implementation information should be logged comprises determining whether the query should be monitored.

3.   The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether query implementation information should be logged comprises comparing an estimated runtime of the query to a user-specified threshold value.

4.   The method of claim 1, wherein determining an execution plan comprises determining a cost for a plurality of execution plans using one or more cost factors and wherein determining whether query implementation information should be logged comprises comparing at least one of the cost factors to a user-specified threshold value.

5.   The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether the query implementation information should be logged comprises comparing a cost factor to a predefined threshold value.

6.   The method of claim 5, wherein the cost factor is selected from at least one of a location of tables, a size of tables, a network node location, a system operating characteristic, a system operating statistic, an estimated runtime for the query, space usage and any combination thereof.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein query implementation information is monitored by a monitor process and wherein determining whether the query implementation information should be logged is performed after executing the query.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein determining whether the query implementation information should be logged comprises determining whether a post-runtime cost factor exceeds a predefined threshold value.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether query implementation information should be logged comprises:

comparing a cost factor of the query to a threshold value; and

if the cost factor exceeds the threshold value, then logging the query implementation information.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the cost factor is an estimated runtime of the query.

11. A computer readable medium containing a program which, when executed by a computer, performs an operation of selectively logging query implementation information of a query in a database management system, the operation comprising:

determining an execution plan for a query; and

determining, according to at least one threshold value, whether query implementation information should be logged for the query.

12. The computer readable medium of claim 10, further comprising executing the query.

13. The computer readable medium of claim 12, wherein determining whether query implementation information should be logged for the query is performed after executing the query.

14. The computer readable medium of claim 12, wherein the query is monitored by a monitor process during execution of the query and wherein determining whether the

query implementation information should be logged is performed after executing the query.

15. The computer readable medium of claim 10, wherein determining whether query implementation information should be logged comprises determining whether the query should be monitored.

16. The computer readable medium of claim 10, wherein determining an execution plan comprises determining a cost for a plurality of execution plans using one or more cost factors and wherein determining whether query implementation information should be logged comprises comparing at least one of the cost factors to a threshold value.

17. The computer readable medium of claim 10, wherein determining whether query implementation information should be logged comprises comparing a cost factor to a predefined threshold value.

18. The computer readable medium of claim 17, wherein the cost factor is an estimated runtime of the query.

19. The computer readable medium of claim 17, wherein the cost factor is selected from at least one of a location of tables, a size of tables, a network node location, a system operating characteristic, a system operating statistic, an estimated runtime for the query, space usage and any combination thereof.

20. The computer readable medium of claim 10, wherein determining whether query implementation information should be logged comprises:
comparing a cost factor of the query to a threshold value; and
if the cost factor exceeds the threshold value, then logging the query implementation information.

21. The computer readable medium of claim 20, wherein the cost factor is an estimated runtime of the query.

22. A database system, comprising:

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at least one database;

a query processor to generate execution plans for queries requesting information contained in the database;

a database engine to access the database according to the execution plans;

a threshold data structure containing at least one threshold value; and

an query implementation information log; wherein query implementation information for the query is written to the query implementation information log only if the threshold value is exceeded by a selected cost factor of the query.

23.   The database system of claim 22, wherein the selected cost factor is an estimated runtime of the query.

24.   The database system of claim 22, wherein the cost factor is selected from at least one of a location of tables, a size of tables, a network node location, a system operating characteristic, a system operating statistic, an estimated runtime for the query, space usage and any combination thereof.

25.   The database system of claim 22, further comprising a monitor program which, when executed, monitors the query to collect the query implementation information.

26.   The database system of claim 25, wherein the monitor program is executed only if the threshold value is exceeded by the selected cost factor of the query.

27.   The database system of claim 26, wherein the selected cost factor is an estimated runtime of the query.

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